

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

4 Aug 95

TO: D/DIR

THRU: 

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

(b) (1)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

SUBJECT: Canberra Translations

While these translations are of messages on the Moscow --> Canberra lane, the messages are circulars sent to other KGB Residencies including NYC (AHS/NSA did not decrypt the circular on the NYC lane however, breaking the message only on this lane).

3. Reason for this request: the 12 Sep 43 message is of extraordinary historical importance to the understanding of the connection between the COMINTERN/national communist parties and the Soviet intell services. The other message is of general tradecraft interest (internal security of the KGB).

4. In normal course of events, according to our schedule, we would not release these messages til July 96. In Sep 95 we are releasing the 250+ messages of 1943 on the NYC-Moscow lanes. These messages would be of great interest to historians and they involve no personal names/privacy issues. I know your decision on the Hiss message, but believe this requested exception to the release schedule is different.

Lou Benson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~SECRET UMBRA VENONA~~

Reissue

From: MOSCOW  
To: CANBERRA  
No: 142[a]

12 September 1943

1. A change in circumstances - and in particular the dissolution of the "BIG HOUSE[BOL'SHOJ DOM]"[i] - necessitates a change in the method used by the workers of our residencies to keep in touch with the leaders of the local FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN[ZEMLYaChESKIj][ii] organizations on intelligence matters.

2. Our workers, by continuing to meet the leaders of the FELLOWCOUNTRYMEN, are exposing themselves to danger and are giving cause [1 group unidentified][b] local authorities to suspect that the "BIG HOUSE" is still in existence.

3. We propose:

a) That personal contact with leaders of the local FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN organizations should cease and that FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN material should not be accepted for forwarding to the "BIG HOUSE."

b) That meetings of our workers may take place only with special reliable undercover[ZAKONSPIROVANNYJ] contacts of the FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN [D% organizations], who are not suspected by the [1 group unidentified][b] local authorities, exclusively about specific aspects of our intelligence work (acquiring [1 group unidentified] contacts, leads[NAVODKI], rechecking of those who are being cultivated, etc.). For each meeting it is necessary to obtain our consent.

[1 group unrecovered]  
[1 group missing]

representative of the Soviet Union.

No. 4048

VIKTOR[iii]

Notes: [a] This message is known to have been sent also to NEW YORK, SAN FRANCISCO and OTTAWA.  
[b] The unidentified group is the same in both cases.

Comments:

[i] BIG HOUSE: The COMINTERN.  
[ii] FELLOWCOUNTRYMAN(-MEN): Communist(s).  
[iii] VIKTOR: Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.

17 August 1971

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA VENONA~~

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ VENONAReissue

From: MOSCOW

To: CANBERRA

No: 233, 232

2 December 1943

Once again we direct your attention to the insufficient secrecy in the work of the leaders and operational workers of the residencies. Some operational workers are being initiated into affairs of the residencies which have no relation to the work which they are carrying out. Of course this is the result of talkativeness and the inevitable responses of brotherly relations which are maintained among our workers. It is necessary to all 16 groups [unrecovered] but each individual operational worker should know on the general work of the residency only what is necessary in order to carry out the work on his own assignment. In the premises of the embassy, legation, consulate (in the studies and work rooms of the residents) and in the private apartments, probably fitted with special [1 group unidentified], discussions are being conducted on operational questions. There have even been cases of setting up in the work room a conference of all the workers of the residency for a collective discussion of instructions of the [C% center]. It is categorically forbidden during instruction and generally in discussion, particularly within the premises, to use the real surnames of workers and probationers [STAZHERY], names of cities and countries, officials and other objectives. All this should be encoded.

at II] [1 group unrecovered] considering the cases cited above it is recommended instead of conversations aloud to exchange notes, which immediately after such a "secret conversation" [1 group unidentified] are destroyed. Our workers must not at work and in private life [4 groups unrecovered] from other [1 group unidentified] apparatus and [1 group unrecovered] that it will inevitably lead to disclosure. [1 group unrecovered] other [1 group unrecovered] discussions in Russian about [5 groups unrecovered].

[5 groups unrecoverable]

violation of rules of secrecy we will take strict measures. [1 group unidentified] providing the necessary secrecy in our work to a considerable extent depends upon the leaders of the residencies themselves. The residents should not share with their subordinates communications which they are not supposed to know for the work.

No. 677

PETROV[1]

Notes: [a] This message is known to have been sent also to HAVANA, MEXICO CITY, OTTAWA, SAN FRANCISCO and NEW YORK.

Comments:

[1] PETROV: Unidentified MOSCOW signature.

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

16 August 1971

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ VENONA